



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

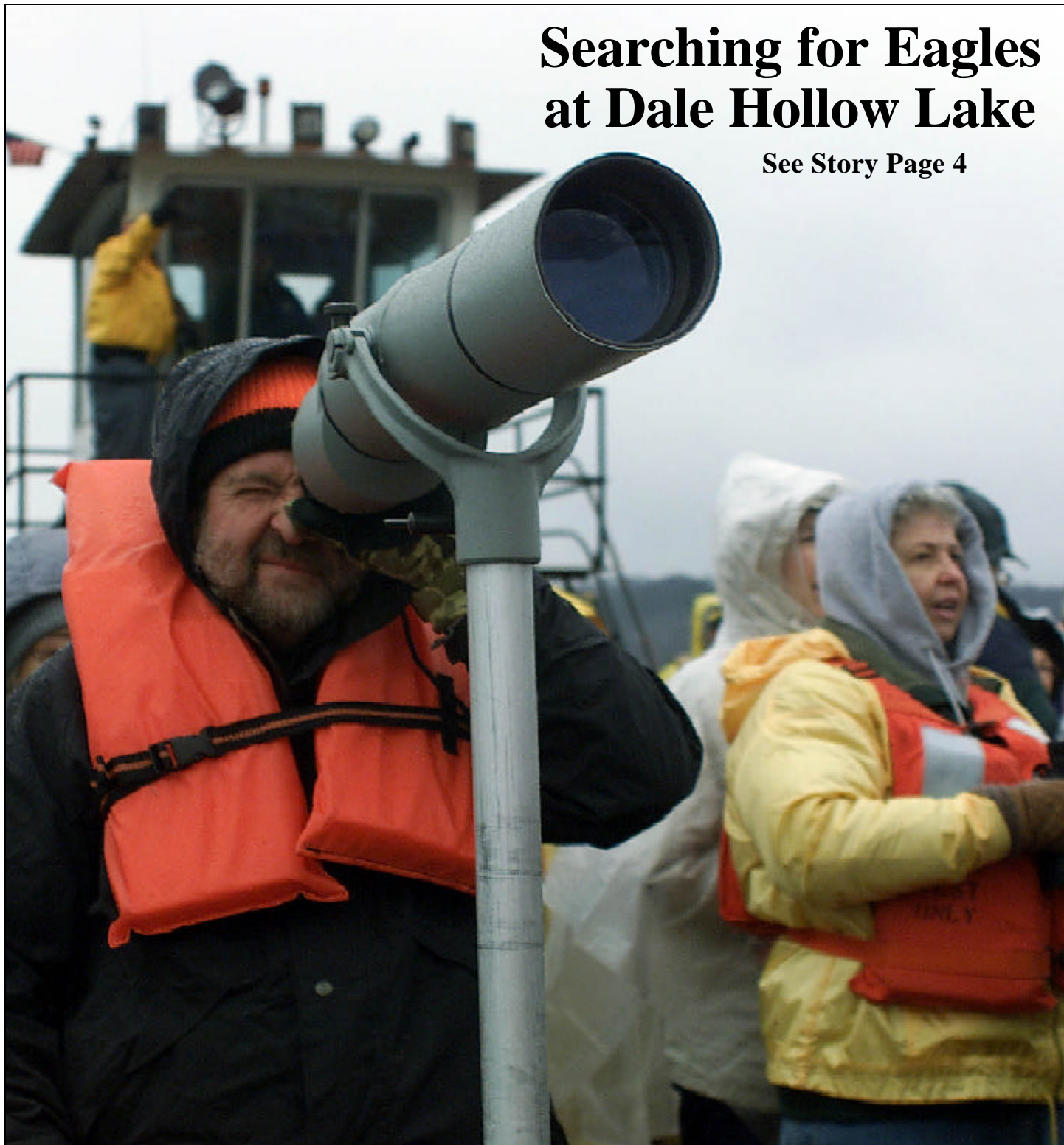
Volume 102, Number 2

Respected-Responsible-Reliable

February 2002

Searching for Eagles at Dale Hollow Lake

See Story Page 4



Lieutenant Colonel Steve Gay

The Bottom Line



Hello to everyone in the Nashville District and thank you very much for your efforts during the last month. As you know, my duties as your commander require me to travel quite often. I recently attended the Chief of Engineer's annual District Engineer Conference. I always hate to leave Nashville, but getting to spend some quality time with the Chief and the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Mr. Mike Parker, made the trip worthwhile and enjoyable. Notes from my trip have been distributed to the District's senior leaders, in case you would like to review them. And, just in case you are only interested in the essence of their message, a summary follows. Mr. Parker is definitely an advocate for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During his presentation, Mr. Parker stressed the importance of building and maintaining relationships with members of Congress and our customers and stakeholders. The Chief emphasized the importance of taking care of people, affirmed his awareness of the shortage of operations and maintenance funding across the Corps, and relayed his confidence that the Project Management Business Process (PMBP) will help the

Corps leverage all its assets to deliver higher quality projects, faster.

Thanks to the many project managers and members of project delivery teams for your assistance in preparing BG Hawkins for his participation in the annual defense of the Corps of Engineers budget before Congress. Thanks also for all your hard work to prepare Dave Day, Carol Warren and me for our visits to members of Congress scheduled for the end of February. The visits that BG Hawkins and I make to the Hill are critical to the District as they provide us the opportunity to share information with the members of Congress about the water resource needs of their constituents and our capability to meet those needs.

Thanks to the Equal Employment Office, and in particular to Stephanie Coleman, for their efforts in orchestrating the Nashville District's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration activities. In case you missed it, Mike Ensich, Barney Davis, Carol Warren, Todd Duncan, Marva Morris, Herb Sharbel, and Larry Cook recited passages from Dr. King's sermons and speeches. The entire program was well done and each and every performance delivered was inspiring. I think this celebration of Dr. King's life and teachings is exactly what our nation's leaders had in mind when they designated MLK Day as a federal holiday. Thanks to all who

attended and especially to those who participated in the ceremony.

Special thanks to Deborah Fletcher and Tennesse Henderson, Black Employment Program team members of the Special Emphasis Programs Committee for their work in implementing a successful Black History Month program. Thanks to Yvonne Hamilton, Historical Records Manager, and to Jim Siburt and Dave Treadway for their work in providing the historical research and pictures for a superb Black History Month display including historical photos of African American workers on some of the earlier Corps projects. Thanks also to James H. Sowell of the Nashville Repair Station, who spoke of his personal involvement, contributions and service during America's recent tragedies of September 11, 2001. James was directly involved with the District's efforts to provide support to New York City using the Rapid Response Vehicle.

Continued on Page 7
See Bottom Line



Photo by Dave Treadway

Lowell Miller of Hendersonville, Tenn., uses a 32-power tripod-mounted telescope to get a close-up look at a mature eagle Jan. 19 during Eagle Watch 2002 at Dale Hollow Lake. The group spotted 16 eagles from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the afternoon tour saw 12 more amid a steady rain.

Contents

Farmer New Chief of Engineering-Construction	3
Coleman Named Employee of the Month	4
Eagle Watch Draws a Crowd	4
Editorial: Former Commander Sends Compliments	5
The Corps Crowd.....	6
Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	7
Muscle Shoals Project Completed	8

Farmer New Chief of Engineering-Construction

by Dave Treadway

Michael Farmer was recently selected as the new Chief, Engineering-Construction Division. He currently is serving as the Chief of Engineering and Construction for the Europe District.

Farmer is a graduate of Georgia Tech with a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering and he holds a Masters of Business Administration from Columbus College (Ga). His credentials also include graduation from the Army Management and Staff College, Personnel Management for Executives I & II, and the USACE Commander's Course. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Georgia, certified as a Project Management Professional, and has been a member of the Army Acquisition Corps since 1995.

He looks forward to assignment in Nashville, "We are ecstatic about coming to live in the Nashville community," said Farmer. "It is ideally situated and offers the benefits of both a large city and the close proximity of numerous residential bedroom communities. We are excited about getting closer to our two grown daughters, parents, and relatives. We are children of the deep south and are thankful for the opportunity to come home. Although I respect and admire many of my colleagues in NAD, the thought of relocating to one of the large northeast

cities was not appealing. Additionally, we will be close enough to Atlanta to see the occasional Braves game and might even be able to use my season tickets to Georgia Tech football games.

"The best thing about coming to Nashville, however, is the opportunity we will have to frequently see our best friends whom we have known for 20 years, Henry and Yvonne Hamilton.

"Certainly I am honored that I was selected for such an important position," continued Farmer, "at such a propitious time in our history. I believe our future as a country has been unalterably influenced by the heinous acts of 9/11. I believe my experiences with the Corps of Engineers in the Middle East and Europe over the past 20 years give me a unique perspective of the difficult realities that we must face if we are to combat and defeat a very determined and cunning enemy."

Farmer's previous assignments include; Chief, Construction Division, Europe District; Deputy Chief, Construction Division, Europe District; and three positions with the Savannah District; Assistant Chief, CD/Chief, Contract Administration Branch, Area Engineer, and Chief E & C, PPMD, as a member of the advance party deployed to Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm.

The new chief admits that he has much to learn about the Corps' civil works program. "But," said the new Chief, "I will



Michael Farmer

also promise that I will listen and learn. I understand that, as someone from outside Nashville District, it is my responsibility to earn your trust, respect and confidence. This will be my goal, starting Feb. 25, 2002."

While in Europe, Farmer and his wife, Diann, and son had many opportunities to travel to London, Rome, Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris, and Vienna. In the course of his work, he has been to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Gulf, Kosovo, Bosnia, Macedonia and Hungary.

"We've driven through England and Scotland on the left side of the road," revealed Farmer. "We've skied in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and been frightened by avalanches and crazy skiers and snowboarders. We've shopped the flea markets in Metz and Tongerlon, visited the castle in Neuschwanstein and walked the old city in Rothenberg. We've had uncounted shopping and dining experiences. It's been great fun but it's time to go home." □

DistrictDigest

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Articles, photographs, and other

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Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the District's homepage at: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil>. □

Eagle Watch 2002 Draws Crowd to Dale Hollow

Story and Photos By Dave Treadway

Saturday, January 19 dawned cold and rainy with just a trace of the ice that had fallen during the night. The weather, however, never dampened the spirits of the hardy souls who had gathered at Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park and at Lillydale Campground to get their annual view of American Bald Eagles that call the lake home during winter months.

The 21st Annual Eagle Watch was a group effort. Corps Ranger Sondra Hafling served as tour guide and ensured that everyone with a reservation was able to climb aboard the open barge used for

viewing. Mechanic Jerry Brown made sure the craft was seaworthy and assisted in boarding passengers at each location. Jeff Brown and Jeff Pickens again represented the Corps oldest eagle watch partner, the Kentucky State Police, and provided a backup barge in the event it was needed.

Ranger Greg Nivens served as barge pilot and Mark Willis presented a short lesson on the nation's symbol and the object of the day's tour. "About 80 percent of the eagle's diet is fish," explained Willis, "and they come south to winter at Dale Hollow Lake because the Lake never freezes over. They may stay here until March before they fly back up north." Kentucky State Trooper Rob

Winsett sat in the catbird seat and served as spotter to direct Nivens toward each eagle's perch.

Before departure, Resource Manager Ronnie Smith talked about the importance of safety and helped ensure each passenger was equipped with

the proper personal floatation device. Hay bales served as seats for guests.

The barge shoved off from Lillydale Recreation Area at 9:30 a.m. with those who chose to board there and then moved to Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park to pick up the remaining passengers for the morning tour. A total of 64 enjoyed the morning tour and had the pleasure of sighting 16 eagles.

Some were first-time eagle watchers but many of the guests had been here before. Pat Copeland, of Livingston, Tenn., has made every Eagle Watch for the past 15 years. "I love to come," said Copeland, "doesn't matter what the weather is like. It's so wonderful to see the eagles in their natural habitat."

Lowell Miller and his wife Susanne made the trip from Hendersonville, Tenn., where he operates Lowell W. Miller & Associates, Sales Training Consultants.

"We are big fans of Dale Hollow Lake," said Miller, "and wouldn't miss this for anything. We fish and camp here a lot, have since 1972, and we love to see the eagles." He wasn't disappointed. Using the 32X tripod-mounted spotting scope, Miller was able to get a close-up look at several eagles, both adults and juveniles.

Guests reserved spots on the barge through either the Corps of Engineers or the State Resort Park. For the last four years, the Corps has increased their partnering effort with the State Resort Park to allow them to take reservations, promote Eagle Watch, and add additional presentations. The Friends of Dale Hollow have been a part of the program since the group was formed in 1993. The Kentucky Department of Game and Fish is invited by the State Resort Park.

"We usually have one day of excellent weather," said Hafling, "and one day of bad weather. With today, we got the bad one out of the way and the weather report for next weekend looks good."

Continued on Page 5



An eagle perches in a tree above Dale Hollow Lake.



A guest uses a long telephoto lens to shoot pictures of an eagle during the morning tour of Eagle Watch 2002.

Employee of the Month

Stephanie Coleman, of the District's Equal Employment Office, has been selected as the Employee of the Month for January 2002. Stephanie exemplified loyalty, respect, and selfless service through her leadership and work on the District's annual Christmas Play performed Dec. 11. As she has for many years, Stephanie wrote and directed the play for a packed audience of Corps employees and retirees. Her endeavors always bring our employees closer creating a much more enjoyable workplace.

The Nashville District Employee of the

Month is selected by the Senior Leaders from all those excellent employees identified by the District's chain of command.

The Employee of the Month is one who stands out among all our great employees as one who further personifies the seven Army values. □



Photo by Steven Foshee
Stephanie Coleman



Left: Kentucky State Trooper Rob Winsett uses binoculars to search for eagles from a perch high on top of the barge as Corps Ranger Greg Nivens navigates the waters of Dale Hollow Lake Jan. 19.



Right: Guests of all ages line the rail and huddle under plastic for protection from the elements as they search for eagles perched among the trees along the shore of Dale Hollow Lake.

Continued From Page 4

Scout Leader Peggy Harker arrived shortly after noon at Lillydale Recreation Area for the 1:30 p.m. tour which boarded 82 eagle watchers. She brought along five excited Junior Girl Scouts from Troop 1962, in Franklin, Tenn.

"The girls were able to earn their Wildlife Badge," explained Harker, "and they may be able to come back and work on a lake cleanup project either here or at J. Percy Priest."

The afternoon tour spotted 12 eagles as the cold rain steadily soaked participants.

In 1980, guests spotted one eagle on the inaugural eagle watch tour. The number of eagles spotted at Dale Hollow

has steadily increased through the years, and is very dependent on what kind of weather is present farther north. The highest number of sightings was 95 on consecutive weekends in 1997. A total of 89 were sighted last year. Mild winter weather so far this year may cause the sightings to be fewer. 1997 also recorded the highest number of eagle watchers, 711. □



Dale Hollow Resource Manager Ronnie Smith (left) and Sondra Hafling (center) talk with a guest January 19 during the morning eagle watch tour.

Editorial

Former Commander Sends Compliments

I hope all is well with the Nashville District family this holiday season. The District Digest Special Edition, "Corps Responds to Attack on America," really brings home the contributions being made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and members of the Nashville District to the attack of September 11, 2001.

Although I departed the District over ten years ago for a Pentagon assignment, followed by three years commanding the Southwestern Division, I think often of the many, many good folks in the Nashville District. Carol Warren keeps in touch, and we hear periodically from Leveda Parton and Janet Caffey, Billy Grantham, Joe Hall, LTC Joyner, and other retirees.

The District Digest remains excellent. I read each issue cover to cover. I fondly remember all the town hall meetings, visits to the District's operational sites and projects, and the many regulatory public meetings. It was great fun working on the Tennessee-Tombigbee and Big South Fork National Recreation Area projects, as well as the Harlan Tunnel and other Upper Cumberland River projects. A highlight was the agreement reached with TVA for Nashville District to design and build Kentucky Lock, and I am pleased that the project is proceeding as planned.

While all the projects and activities were fun and exciting, what made Nashville District special was its people. I never worked with a better group of professionals. Many of them are no longer with us: Euclid Moore, Thelma Cummings, Hilton

Davis, and others. The one I think about the most is Stony Merriman. Stony was one of the finest men I have known.

Time marches on. After 30 years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and six years as a Vice President of Huitt-Zollars Incorporated, Architects/Engineers, I retired in June. Roberta and I have begun traveling, both in the United States and abroad, and are enjoying our time together immensely. Our first grandchild was born in July, and all three of our children live close by and are doing well.

Keep up the good work, Nashville District. I'm proud of you!

Colonel James P. King
U.S. Army, Retired
Colleyville, Texas □

The Corps Crowd

Welcome to...

...Amanda Gill, who is the new Student Aide in the Real Estate Division.

...Terry Burlew, Civil Eng. Tech at Lake Barkley. Terry relocated to Kentucky from Alaska. Previously he had worked at Fort Richardson and Elmendorf AFB in Alaska.

...Judy Hargis, Park Ranger at Lake Barkley. Judy previously worked at Lake Cumberland.

...Jon Summers, Park Ranger at Lake Barkley. Jon previously worked at Cordell Hull Lake.

...Mark Klimasewski, who is coming to us from Lake Barkley.

...Mr. Michael Farmer was selected as the new Chief of Engineering and Construction for the Nashville District. He begins work on Feb. 24.

...Paula Watts to Engineering-Construction Division, Environmental Restoration Branch. She is a chemist who comes to us from the private sector.

...Charlynn Reichardt as she assumes her duties as the secretary to the DPM.

Farewell to...

...Kenny Claywell, Park Ranger, who will be transferring to Dale Hollow Lake.

Sympathy to...

...the family of Howard 'Mike' Huey, son of the late Joe Huey of Resource Management Office, recently passed away. Mike also worked for a time as a park Ranger with Nashville Corps of Engineers in the DAL/R, BAR/R, OLD/R, and the District office.

...Gary Hayes, Park Ranger at Lake Cumberland, whose mother, Jeannette Hayes passed away on Jan 28.

Baby Brigade

...Carol Warren, Executive Officer, on the birth of her granddaughter, Emma Grace Warren, born Jan. 20, weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. Parents are Joy and Chris Warren.

...Brigitte Rugare, on the birth of her 14th grandchild, Daniella Marie Rugare, who was born on Dec 10.

...Barney Schulte and his wife on the birth of their son, Cameron Robert Schulte, born on Jan. 16 at 8:23 p.m. He weighed in at 8 lbs and 6 oz. and is 20 inches long.

...John East, Specialist at Lake Barkley

has a new grandson, Thomas Jude East weighing 8 lbs., 1 oz., 21 inches long. He was born Jan. 11. This is their 6th grandchild. The parents are Joey & Amy East. □



Richard Downing, (Bill Barnes' second cousin) who retired in 1976 from the Corps of Engineers after 33 years, proudly displays a 7.2-pound largemouth bass he caught Jan. 22 on Center Hill Lake at Holmes Creek. Richard used a Tournament Series "Salty Tender White Tube" to hook the lunker. The fish still prows the waters of Center Hill because Richard set her free because she was full of eggs. He has the picture and that's enough for him.

February District History

Feb. 24, 1862 - The city of Nashville surrenders to advancing Union Army following its victories over Confederate forces at Fort Henry (Tennessee River) and Fort Donelson (Cumberland River.)

Feb. 19, 1923 - Major Harold C. Fiske becomes Nashville District commander. During his tenure, he oversees the investigations leading to multi-purpose development of the Cumberland & Tennessee Rivers.

Feb. 23, 1990 - A ceremony is held at District HQ on the seventh floor of the Federal Building in Nashville, Tenn., to add the names of Robert L. Thomas, Jr.; Ronald G. Welbern; and Harold R. Stafford to the Distinguished Civilian Employee plaque. The 79-year-old retiree Ed "Digger" Drake entertained the crowd with stories from his 1935 to 1975 career, including tales about Soils Lab employee Louie Campbell, and a "wet-behind-the-ears" engineer named Euclid Moore, later Chief of Engineering Division.

Feb. 23, 1988 - Corps Ranger Keith Crowe and Division of Forestry's Ted Melton discovered a giant Swamp Chestnut Oak growing on Old Hickory Lake property. The giant oak measured 20 feet around and 100 feet tall.

More significant dates in the History of the Nashville District at:
www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest □

Bird Watchers Wanted

*by Park Ranger Justin Reed
Old Hickory Lake*

Bird watchers are urged to mark their calendars, perhaps even pack a picnic lunch, and join the 5th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). February 15-18 has been set aside as the 5th Annual GBBC, and the Old Hickory Lake Environmental Study Area on Walton Ferry Road in Hendersonville is just made for it. The Environmental Study area is equipped with both paved and unpaved walking trails, an outdoor education shelter, a large bird feeder, and even a field checklist of Tennessee birds at the head of the paved trail.

The nationwide GBBC is a combined effort of the Audubon Society, the Cornell

Lab of Ornithology and Wild Birds Unlimited. To participate simply count the highest number of each bird species observed along with the amount of time spent counting. Results can be reported by logging onto the Bird Source website at <http://www.birdsource.org>.

Scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology use the data from the GBBC to learn more about bird populations across the continent. Findings from previous counts include a correlation between snow depth and winter distribution of American Robins. More findings are expected from this year's count.

For more information on the project at Old Hickory Lake, contact Park Ranger Justin Reed at (615) 822-4846 or 847-2395. □

Employees Gather for Tribute to King

Story and Photo by Dave Treadway

More than 75 employees gathered in Room A640 January 18 to hear "The Voice of a Dreamer", a tribute to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Participants read excerpts from speeches given by the late civil rights leader.

Following opening remarks by District Engineer LTC Steve Gay, Todd Duncan read parts of "The Most Durable Power", an early sermon delivered by Dr. King on November 6, 1956.

Others then read from a 1957 sermon entitled "Loving Your Enemies", three 1963 speeches entitled "Letter From a Birmingham Jail", "Great March on Detroit", and the famous "I Have A Dream".

After an excerpt from a 1967 sermon entitled "A Christmas Sermon on Peace," Operations Chief Mike Ensich concluded with portions of Dr. King's final and perhaps most famous speech.

Dr. King delivered a speech entitled "I've Been to the Mountaintop" in support of the striking sanitation workers at Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 3, 1968 – the day before he was struck down by an assassin.

Mike Ensich read Dr. King's words:

"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's



Herb Sharbel reads portions of a sermon entitled "Loving Your Enemies" delivered on November 17, 1957 by the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." □

The Bottom Line

Continued From Page 2

On Jan. 31, Dave Day and I were proud to represent the Nashville District as we received the 2001 Tennessee Quality Commitment Award at the annual awards banquet. Thanks to Bill Fisher and his team of writers, our District continues to gain honors for our adherence to a path of constant improvement. Through our submission, we recognized areas of improvement throughout the District. We joined the ranks of many other excellent organizations which also strive for constant improvement: Sverdrup Technology, Nashville Electric Service, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Naval Support Activity Mid-South, Aeroquip-Inoac Company, Dana Corporation, and the Bristol Chamber of Commerce to name a few.

In February, as part of the District's continuous improvement process, our Senior Leaders will use the results of the DA wide survey, the District's Employee Survey, and the results of the Tennessee Quality Award submission to identify our major shortfalls. Once this list of "gaps" is prioritized, your 2002 Leadership

Development Program students will choose their projects knowing that what they work on throughout the year will make the District better. Finally, Senior Leaders and G&A Chiefs will determine how we will "bridge" the remaining gaps!

Thanks to the District's 2001 Leadership Development Program class for developing the New Employees Orientation Program and to our Human Resources Office, and Rachel Owens in particular, for executing an extremely successful first program. All the presenters did an excellent job and received high marks from those who attended.

I recently attended the Dale Hollow Eagle Watch program administered by the Dale Hollow Resource Management Office in cooperation with Kentucky State Police Trooper Island, Dale Hollow State Resort Park, and Friends of Dale Hollow Lake Incorporated. Being a part of this first class program made me proud to be a member of the Nashville District. I will definitely attend again next year. I hope to see you there.

In last month's column I told you we intend to change our Employee of the Quarter program to Employee of the Month in order to recognize more of you

for your outstanding service to the District and nation. Congratulations to Stephanie Coleman for being recognized as the District's first employee of the "month".

With my approval, the District Safety Office recently concluded a new District safety slogan contest. Thanks to all of you who submitted new slogans. There were over 350-submissions! All the slogans were great so the winning slogan will be difficult to choose! We'll announce the winner sometime in February.

Speaking of safety, every day you begin work you should first do a safety survey of your area and equipment. What shape is the area in? Are there any slippery spots on the floor? Are there any tripping hazards in your area? Is the lighting and ventilation adequate? Are your safety glasses clean and strong? Are your safety shoes serviceable? Many times it is little hazards that can cause a serious injury. Your *safety* is important to me. Our Safety Office is ready and willing to answer your questions and help keep you safe! Thanks to all of you for making the Nashville District such a great place to serve. I look forward to seeing you on the projects and in the hallways.

Make a Difference! □

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Muscle Shoals Project Completed

by Dave Treadway

Nashville District has completed, and will now turn over to the sponsor, a Flood Damage Reduction Project in the central business district of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama. The \$9.1 million dollar project deepened an existing detention pond designed to drain water away from commercial areas, constructed a pumping station to increase flood protection during heavy rain events, and added a mile of 60-inch pipe to greatly increase the pump station's capacity to empty storm runoff into the Tennessee River. It was completed late last year, just passed final inspections, and the District will deliver operations manuals to the sponsor this month.

Congressman Robert E. (Bud) Cramer, 5th District, Ala., who championed the project authorized under Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, worked hard to ensure federal funds were there to pay for the major portion of the project. The City of Muscle Shoals shared remaining costs.

"I was very pleased to see this important flood control project completed," said Representative Cramer. "Over the years, I've had a good working relationship with the Army Corps of Engineers and I was glad to be able to secure the federal

funding necessary for the Corps to complete this project. The Shoals is a growing community and it's these types of projects that are necessary for it to continue to grow."

Muscle Shoals Mayor David Bradford also feels the project will be good for the city.

"We are very proud of the completion of this major and primary flood control project," said Mayor Bradford. "We believe this flood control plan will allow us to continue to grow and protect our city in the event of major flooding. It was a priority of the past administration, under Mayor Charles Mitchell, and the current administration, to complete this project and continue to develop a comprehensive flood control program for our city. I would especially like to thank Congressman Bud Cramer for his work in making this project a reality."

Two different contractors worked on the detention pond and pumping station located between Woodward and Buena Vista Avenues and Bolden Pipe Company of Nashville laid the mile of 60-inch pipe underneath and sometimes alongside Broadway Street. Officials broke ground May 4, 1998 and work was completed in two phases.

"Phase II of the project involved laying pipe through a residential neighborhood,"



The new pump station overlooks the Buena Vista detention pond.

said Project Manager Peggy Harker, "and this portion went very smoothly in spite of the close proximity to public utilities and private homes."

The completed project increased the depth of the detention pond by 15 feet to greatly increase storage capacity, more than tripled the capacity of the pump station, now allows for earlier response to flood events, and also ensures the pump station can remove surface runoff from the commercial area into the Tennessee River at full capacity. The project means better flood protection for 25 residential and 60 commercial structures. Recent heavy rains, measured at seven inches in Muscle Shoals, posed no problem for structures, a testament to the increased capacities of the project.

The City of Muscle Shoals, as the local sponsor, is responsible for operation and maintenance. □